



PATENT
ATTY. DOCKET NO.: 000023-00121

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Group Art Unit: 1732

ARJAN DIRK VAN LENTHE et al.

Application No.: 10/781,679

Examiner: Mark Eashoo

Filed: February 20, 2004

Confirmation No. 5536

For: THERMOPLASTIC TUBE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 19, 2007

Sir:

In the Notice of Allowance, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for allowance. The Applicants generally agree with the Examiner's statement that "claim 23 does not specifically appear [to] exclude the presence of a liquid film." However, the Applicants comment on the phrase "the grooves and / or ribs would not function in the process as claimed in the presence of a liquid film as taught by Prenger et al. (see claim 23 and paras. [0215] – [0217])." It is true that the Applicants' process would not function "in the presence of a liquid film as taught by Prenger et al." (emphasis added). However, Applicants would like to make it clear in the record that the Applicants' process may function in the presence of a liquid film and that claim 23 should not be read to require or exclude the presence of a liquid film.

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Response to Notice of Allowance Dated December 20, 2006
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This is consistent with the parts of the specification referred to by the Examiner in his reasons for allowance, which refer to Figures 7 and 8 of the application. Further, this is consistent with the Applicants' arguments dated October 6, 2006, which were found persuasive by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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